

Domestic Violence Coordinating Council  
**Treatment Committee Minutes**  
June 10, 2015, 10:00 AM  
Middletown Police Department

---

- I. Introductions were made. In attendance at the meeting were: Melissa Kearney (P&P), Maggie O'Bara (Capitol Police), Natasha Smith (DVCC), Rob Coupe (DOC), Shamla McLaurin (Catholic Charities), Ellie Torres (DVCC), Ruth Yeboah (DAFB), Kerry Ferriter (PDO), Dan Armstrong (Child, Inc.), Blanch Creech (Turning Point) and Aimee Voshell String (DVCC).
- II. Minutes from the 3/11/15 Treatment Meeting were reviewed and approved.
- III. Old Business
  - a. Update on Training for the Courts on DV Treatment Programs
    - i. This project is still in the works. Money has been set aside for the training. The plan is for the courts to cancel calendars to allow for attendance of judicial staff from Court of Common Pleas, JP Court, Chancery Court, Family Court and Superior Court.
  - b. Update: Treatment Providers Access to DV Criminal Convictions
    - i. This program is currently operational. DV programs have access to DV Conviction records through a probation and parole referral process. The treatment providers noted that the history is very helpful in DV Treatment.
  - c. Batterer's Intervention Certification Standards
    - i. Ellie has made a mark-up of changes. It is still a work in progress. Ellie will send the proposed changes to the committee via e-mail once complete.
  - d. DVCC Sponsored Education Credits for Treatment Providers
    - i. Aimee made some initial calls to speakers (including Tony Porter, Kit Gruelle and Lisa Larance) to get an idea of costs. Aimee learned that the cost of the speaker would depend on the timing of the training and the closer the date was to Domestic Violence Awareness Month (October) the more difficult and costly to book. Aimee sought input from the committee as to what month would work best for the training. After some discussion the committee agreed that January or February would be a good time to host the training.
    - ii. The Committee also discussed possibly holding the training at Buena Vista in New Castle and inviting treatment providers from surrounding states to participate and help defray costs.
  - e. BISC-MI 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Conference
    - i. Aimee attended the conference as a representative of the DVCC in April. She reported that she was one of 4 individuals from the state of Delaware and very the conference to be very beneficial. She noted some trends in the field including:

1. Discussion surrounding understanding the role that “gender norms” play in Domestic Violence.
2. An increasing need to understand the role of diversity in Batterer’s Treatment.
3. A need for specialized programming for female offenders
4. A nation-wide discussion about the effectiveness of treatment programs. Aimee noted a recent study coming out of the UK that was of particular interest titled Project Mirabal.

f. Research on Effectiveness of Treatment Programs in Delaware

- i. Aimee reached out to Susan Miller from the University of Delaware and invited her to attend the meeting. Unfortunately, Susan was not able to come to this meeting but she has provided a lot of information and insight into the research process including the need to partner with DELJIS and the need to factor incentives into the budget. She mentioned a study that she is currently working on in conjunction with the DCADV on the effectiveness of the PFA process.
- ii. We hope to have a proposal ready by the next meeting

IV. New Business

a. On-line Batterer’s Intervention Programs

- i. The Committee noted that the wave of the future seems to be to do everything on-line. Aimee noted that while at the BISC-MI conference this was a topic of conversation and there was not a state in the country that believes on-line batterer’s treatment programs are effective. On-line treatment programs do not give the same level of ownership and accountability.
- ii. [www.courtorderedclasses.com](http://www.courtorderedclasses.com) is currently advertising that its on-line DV Treatment Program has been certified for use in Delaware. Aimee mentioned that multiple states and the National Network To End Domestic Violence are currently trying to get false information removed from this site. Aimee has contacted the company via telephone, fax, letter and e-mail and has received no response from them. The DVCC has added a line on the website and list of certified treatment programs that states that no on-line treatment programs have been certified for use in Delaware.

- b. Dan Armstrong brought up the idea of creating standards for non-intimate partner violence anger management programs. There is currently no uniformity among the programs offered in Delaware. Our current DV Treatment programs do offer Anger Management and there are additional agencies providing the services. The committee agreed to add this to our future agenda for more discussion.

V. Public Comment

- a. Ruth mentioned her frustration that in Kent County cross PFA’s are being filed and used as bargaining tools. Maggie mentioned that cross PFA’s are also very frustrating for police officers to deal with. The committee noted that there has been a decrease in dual arrests.

VI. Next Meeting Dates: All meetings are held at 10:00 AM at the Middletown Police Department.

- a. Wednesday, September 9<sup>th</sup>
- b. Wednesday, December 9th